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SOURCE REF:

CIA/OCI/WHIZ 740916

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SUBJECT: TURKISH CABINET LIKELY TO RESIGN TOMORROW

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PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY THAT HE WILL RECOMMEND TOMORROW TO HIS PARTY, THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY THAT THE CABINET RESIGN. ECEVIT SAID THAT IF HE OBTAINS HIS PARTY APPROVAL, HE WILL FORMALLY SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT MORTURK AND SEEK NEW ELECTIONS. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT PARTY LEADERS WILL ACCEPT ECEVIT'S RECOMMENDATION.

ECEVIT'S MOVE FOLLOWS A SPLIT LAST WEEK WITH DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER ERBAKAN, LEADER OF THE JUNIOR COALITION PARTNER--THE
NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY. THE COALITION, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN SHAKY
SINCE ITS INCEPTION LAST JANUARY.

1 THE US EMBASSY IN NURENBERG COMMENTS THAT ECWIT PROBABLY

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WILL EMERGE AS THE LEADER OF A NEW GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THERE ARE STRONG SUGGESTIONS THAT HE HAS ALREADY OBTAINED THE AGREEMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO JOIN IN A COALITION. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS A SMALL RIGHT-OF-CENTER GROUPING WITH ROUGHLY THE SAME STRENGTH IN PARLIAMENT AS THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY. DEMOCRATIC LEADERS RECENTLY HAVE PLAYED DOWN THE POSSIBILITY OF A COALITION WITH ECEVIT, CLAIMING STRONG DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

ECEVIT WOULD PREFER EARLY ELECTIONS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN UPswing IN HIS POPULARITY AS A RESULT OF THE CYPRUS OPERATION. HE NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF PARLIAMENT TO CALL ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, AND OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE NOT LIKELY TO JOIN HIM IN A MOVE THAT MIGHT COST THEM SEATS.

IF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY JOINS ECEVIT IN CALLING FOR ELECTIONS THEY COULD BE HELD AT THE EARLIEST IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER AND NEXT SPRING AT THE LATEST.

THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ON A TEMPORARY BASIS UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS FORMED. THE CHANGE SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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NO SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH IT COULD SLOW DOWN OR DELAY ACTION ON NEW PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT. IT COULD ALSO HOLD UP IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTROL MEASURES ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE OPIUM POPPY. EE INFDET.

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